

Down Syndrome Development Council

July/August
2009

Down Syndrome
Development Council

Down Syndrome Development Council

Celebrating 30 Years

Mission Statement:

To promote a greater acceptance and understanding of Down syndrome by enlightening the broader community to recognize the individuality, uniqueness and capabilities.

Hip-Hip-Hooray!!!!

And many, many thanks as well to our beloved, outgoing DDC Board vice-president

Mary Lou Paff

We are so grateful for all that you have done during your years of service (and, of course, for pulling in your husband for website design, assistance/maintenance)! We

appreciate all you have done in helping our meetings, our events, and our organization as a whole to run more smoothly for the past three years!

And by the way...

Mary Lou's absence is sad for the board members in another way, in that we have a vacant office in need of filling! **If you would like more information about the position or are interested in serving the DDC as vice-president** (e.g., assisting with event coordination, standing in for the President when he cannot attend an official meeting, hanging out with a bunch of really delightful people who are all working to improve the lives of our kids and the communities that surround them), **please contact Patrick Collins (aka President Pat) at rjohncol@comcast.net** - all nominations will be part of an interim election at the September monthly meeting!

Meeting Place

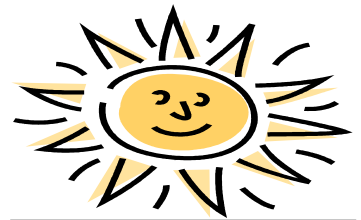
Community

Protestant Church,

418 N. Prairie,

Mundelein, IL

**Second Thursday of
the Month**



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Playgroup
- New Baby Social, June 27
- Movie Lover's Club July 4, Ice Age 3
- DDC Annual Picnic, August 2
- Buddy Walk, September 20

Movie Lover's Club will meet July 4, 2009

The next Movie Lover's movie is Ice Age 3, Dawn of the Dinosaurs! Join your fellow DDC members at the Libertyville Theatre, 708 N. Milwaukee Avenue, in Libertyville, for a 10:00am showing of the brand new Ice Age 3. This is a special showing just for DDC members and the DDC covers the cost of admission for your whole family. Popcorn, pop and other movie goodies are available for purchase at the theatre concession stand. July 4th weekend is opening weekend for the new animated, digital 3-D film, so join us and be one of the first to see the "Dawn of the Dinosaurs"! **3-D GLASSES ARE NOT REQUIRED!!!!**

PUNS REGISTRATION UPDATE

MaryLou Paff, who handled the PUNS registration for the DDC, reported that we had about 16 families participate. The PUNS (Prioritization of Urgency of Need for Services) registration night was held on April 9th. For those families who weren't able to register their child with special needs in the Illinois PUNS database that evening please contact PUNS registration directly for an individual appointment:

PUNS Registration
Community Alternatives Unlimited
773-867-4000

If you have previously registered in the PUNS database, but need to do your annual update, please call 773-867-4000 PUNS update. Each process, either the PUNS registration or the PUNS update, takes about 30 minutes.

DDC Board Members 2008-2009 (**voting board members)

**President	Patrick Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
** Vice President	Vacant	vacant	vacant
**Secretary	Jennifer Jenkins	847-970-6797	only_connect@msn.com
**Treasurer	Janis Kern	847-548-4417	janiskern@comcast.net
**Board	RaeAnn Collins	847-265-8482	rjohncol@comcast.net
Playgroups	Belinda Hidalgo	847-838-4398	belinda.hidalgo@alere.com
FORO Newsletter (Spanish Issue)	Anna Roeser	847-362-0980	roeser1984@yahoo.com
Newsletter Editor	PennySue McKenzie	224-643-7923	pennyontheverge@gmail.com

DDC New Baby Social, June 27

Are you the family of a "new" (ages 18 months or younger) little one with Down syndrome? An open house for the newest members of our extensive DDC family

offers a chance to mingle with other babies and their

families, to chat with other DDC parents of preschool-age children (we're the hosts that day so our kids stay home so we can focus on yours!) Share information about Early Intervention and Early Childhood programs, swap contact info of favorite therapists, to get ideas about what to help your child do next, to eat a bagel or a donut, drink some coffee, and marvel at how lovely all our kids are! Siblings and grandparents welcome! It is an OPEN HOUSE so feel free to **drop in any time Saturday, June 27th, from 9:30am-11:30am**. For more information on the schedule or to get on our email list contact Jennifer Jenkins, only_connect@msn.com or (847)970-6797. See you there!



Trillium Project Fundraiser

Your words have Power. Words heal, inspire and empower. Please join us and share your words at our DDC-Trillium Project open house and help us create something wonderful inspired by our children with Down syndrome.

In conjunction with artist Suzanne Loechl of The Trillium Project, DDC parents will get a chance to share the power of their words with others by taking part in this amazing awareness fundraiser.

There is no cost to participate and there is not artistic talent needed...if you can write and you love someone who has a little something extra, then you have all the tools you need to be a part of this amazing project. Those wishing to participate will write a word, phrase, mantra, etc. , on a specially prepared slate tile. Suzanne will then take all the tiles, seal them and cut them into pendant-size pieces and attach bails so they can be worn as necklaces.

A few words, written in our own hands, will show on each pendant and people who receive or buy a necklace will carry a piece of our lives and the lives of our children with them. Each inspired pendant is a sign of solidarity and just like our children with Down syndrome, everyone is unique and a small part of a larger whole. Truly, poetry in motion and love made visual!

“Trillium is dedicated to raising awareness and empowering those facing extraordinary life challenges by expressing their words and stories through the creation of ‘inspired art’.”

You can learn more about The Trillium Project and see some of the actual pendants similar to the ones we will be creating at www.thetrilliumproject.org.

The pendants created from our group effort will be available for purchase at our upcoming DDC Buddy Walk. The DDC will receive 25% of the sales.

So drop in on Sunday, July 19th, anytime between 1:00 and 4:00 to the Collins' Home located at 2945 Farmington Drive, Lindenhurst, Illinois 60046

We ask that adults only participate in the actual creation of the tiles and babysitting will not be provided at this event. If you have further questions, please contact RaeAnn Collins at 847.265.8482 or rjohncol@comcast.net...Although not required please RSVP if possible.



OUR 2009

DDC

BUDDY WALK IS
COMING SOON!



Save the date!

See old friends & meet new ones!

WHEN: Sunday, September 20th from 12:00 am to 5:00 pm.

WHERE: Lambs Farm in Libertyville, IL

WHY: Raise awareness for Down syndrome! Celebrate individuals with Down syndrome! Food, Inflatables, Entertainment, Raffle, Silent Auction and FUN!

We have already received donations of some amazing items, including:

- **One week stay in an Ocean front Condo in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico**
- **Nine week Horseback Riding Therapy Sessions provided by Partners for Progress, NFP in Gurnee, IL**
- **Firefighter for a Day provided by Countryside Fire Protection in Vernon Hills**
- **Longaberger Baskets**
- **Creative Memories Scrapbooking Items**

HOW CAN YOU HELP? Would you consider putting together a basket of items for our raffle or silent auction? Ideas that are always popular are: Wine baskets, Sports Team baskets, Gift Certificate baskets, Rainy Day projects baskets, Coffee Baskets, Spa package baskets, Holiday themed baskets, Landscaping certificates.....let your imagination go! Individual new items will also be accepted that can be added to baskets!

Sometimes, it is not what you know, but who you know!

Know someone who can donate a service? Attached is our official solicitation letter that you can provide to them. Remember, all donations are tax deductible!

Questions? Please reach RaeAnn Collins at rjohncol@comcast.net or at (847) 265-8482.



Down syndrome Development Council

P.O. Box 906

Mundelein, IL 60060

June 18, 2009

Re: Donation to Down syndrome Development Council Down syndrome “Buddy Walk”

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Down syndrome Development Council (DDC) is a not-for-profit Lake County volunteer support group for families of children with Down syndrome. Established on July 9, 1979, DDC is committed to support & enhance the quality of life of all those who have Down syndrome so that they have the opportunity to realize their life aspirations.

DOWN SYNDROME is the most commonly occurring genetic condition & is caused by the presence of three, instead of two, copies of Chromosome 21. People with Down syndrome are unique individuals who possess a wide range of abilities & are active participants in the educational, occupational, social & recreational activities of the community.

On Sunday, September 20, 2009, the DDC is holding our 11th annual Awareness “Buddy Walk”, at Lambs Farm in Libertyville, IL. Typical attendance for our Walk is over 500 people! Our group relies on this major fund raiser to further our goals to:

- Raise awareness of the capabilities & potential of people with Down syndrome
- Advocate for the needs of individuals with Down syndrome
- Support research via NDSS, the National Down syndrome Society in New York City

We are hoping that you can help us in this endeavor by making a donation. With your donation you will also receive free advertising at the event and also receive a special mention in our monthly newsletter. The donation may be sent to my attention at the address on the top of this letter. Please include your business card!

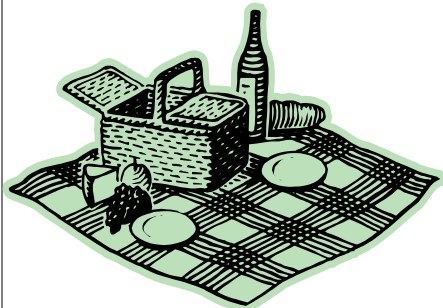
Profits from this year's walk will enable us to:

- Maintain our website (TheDDC.org) in order to help others keep well informed
- Continue our English and Spanish newsletters
- Continue our monthly bilingual playgroups
- Continue support, advocacy training, awareness and education
- Continue with our informational and educational seminars

If you have any questions or comments please contact RaeAnn Collins at (847)265-8482 or at rjohncol@comcast.net.

Thank you,

_____, DDC Member



Who: You and your family What: A picnic!

**Where: Half-Day Forest Preserve, shelter A,
Lincolnshire**

When: August 2, 2009

How: Any way you can get there!

More food, fun, games and bouncing than even a Tigger can handle!!!

Exciting News from NDSS!

The National Down Syndrome Society is proud to unveil their new public awareness strategy, *My Great Story!* *My Great Story* seeks to honor and celebrate the great stories of the 400,000 Americans living with Down syndrome by showcasing their stories in an online storybook. This book will feature inspirational stories about work, school, friends, family, hobbies, travel, the NDSS Buddy Walk program and many other things. If you have Down syndrome and you want to share your achievements, dreams, aspirations, successes, or anything else about yourself they want to hear from you. If you have a great story about someone you know who has Down syndrome, they want to hear that as well! They want to know how you have been inspired by him or her. Tell a story about your friend, family member, colleague, student, patient, neighbor, etc. The NDSS would like to encourage everyone to get involved by passing along this web address, www.ndss.org/stories.

ELITE STARS, Stars Hockey Camp

ELITE Special Athletes Foundation is please to announce the ELITE STARS Developmental Ice Hockey Camp for individuals with special needs. Under the direction of NHL Alumni Steve Dubinsky, special athletes will receive coaching, training and competitive opportunities to grow their ability in the sport of ice hockey both on and off the ice. The camp is August 3 –7, 2009, 9:00am—12:00pm. **Contact Patty Hermann, ELITE STARS Founder, for more information, 847-804-3547 or Elitefoundation@aol.com.**

Playgroup

Our monthly playgroup now meets on the **3rd Wednesday evening** of the month. Families are encouraged to bring all of their children for an interactive group play therapy session, led by our developmental therapist Kris Murray and hosted by various DDC parents. The **Wednesday** evening playgroup includes a light dinner. A Spanish language interpreter is available with advance notice. These playgroups are completely free of charge and open to all DDC member families! Here are the playgroup dates for the rest of 2009:

Wed., Aug. 19th

Sept. No Playgroup due to the Buddy Walk

Wed., Oct. 21st

Wed., Nov. 18th

Dec. No Playgroup due to the holidays
If you are planning to attend a playgroup, so that we can properly plan on the amount of food, please notify Crystal at 414-688-9174 or email, engspaninterprete@yahoo.com.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Abbott Laboratories Employee Giving Campaign
 Allstate Giving Campaign
 Joan Geer in honor of Tempest McKenzie
 Hospira Employee Giving Campaign
 Hospira Employee Giving-Foundation Match
 James King in honor of Kellie O'Donnell
 Knights of Columbus - Spring Grove Council
 Michael Roeser



The Down Syndrome Development Council extends a sincere **thank you** to all of the donors whose contributions were received in April, May and June. Your generosity will allow DDC to continue to offer quality programs and services to our members!



Dominicks "eScrip"
 Fundraising Program
 Update

DDC has earned a total of **\$643.00** from the eScrip program through April 2009. Our monthly earnings continue to grow! This is an easy way for DDC to fundraise, and all you have to do is register your Dominick's Fresh Values Card! To find out more about the program, and how to register, please go to "TheDDC.org". You can register at "escrip.com". The DDC is listed as Down Syndrome Development Council, Mundelein, IL 60060. If you have any questions, please contact Janis Kern, DDC Treasurer, at (847) 548-4417.

Adaptivemall.com introduces a new funding program for the specific use of your child with special needs! This new program, Kiddie Pool, works like your family's own fundraiser for your child's needs/wants. Your friends and family can see your child's own webpage and contribute toward gift certificates. Get the details at Adaptivemall.com!

July Birthdays

Craig Alfred

Mary Benson

Anna Carollo

Daniel Effa

Ella Goche

Kieran Van Krey

Madeline McLaughlin

Kellie O'Donnell

Daniel O'Malley

Michael Parker

Faith Plescia

Nadilee Rose Polek

Matthew Rodgers

August "Gus" Roeser

Angela Rossing

Patrick Rygiel

Ian Stevenson

Ruby Torres

Julissa Borgos Valasquez

Yahya Younus

August Birthdays

Olivia Belina

Jennelle Perzigian Beran

Kelli Burchard

Lucas Cast

Ryan Chapin

Elizabeth Gottlieb

Tyler Inman

Michael Ivers

Ryan Kelroy

Timothy Luhr

Giuliana "Gigi" Gianni

Blake Peacock

Cathrine Peccioli

Angie Picchi

Jenny Shafer

Erich Smith

Rebecca Steiner

Kevin Stith

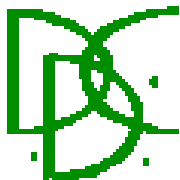
Dylan Thompson

Amanda Zukowski



Please note: The Forum newsletter is written on a volunteer, non-professional basis. Information presented should not be construed to be objective or definitive, but represents the opinions and understanding of the editor and its contributors. Your contributions are welcome. Please contact RaeAnn at rjohncol@comcast.net or PennySue at pennyontheverge@gmail.com.

Downs (Down Syndrome) Development Council, DDC, is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization and volunteer support group established in 1978 by parents of children with Down Syndrome.



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